

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc International Development
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time Part-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £9,800</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2024/25 is £5,400 per year*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £19,500</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

* We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. Overview of the Programme

The programme is aimed at students who wish to specialize in the study of International Development. International Development is a core international policy priority, part of the United Nations' 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to reduce global inequalities and injustices and combat poverty. The degree draws on the long-standing expertise within the School of Social, Political and Global Studies, and in the wider Faculty and University, on international relations, sustainability and the environment, conflict and security, and post-conflict reconstruction to offer an innovative and intensive period of study on the practices and challenges of International Development.

It differs from other programmes in the UK and internationally because of its focus on the environmental and security aspects of international development. It provides a distinctive focus on the connections between development and global environmental change and challenges; as well as on the connections between development, conflict and security transnationally and in different areas of the world.

The University's strategic plan stresses the need to be 'global in outlook and international in action'. This programme inherently meets this need by examining some of the world's most pressing development problems, including the intense challenges of environmental change, and reconstruction and development after conflict, as well as the global political problems that shape all issues of global inequality. The degree fits directly with the School, Faculty and University's Education priorities to internationalize the curriculum, as the programme explores some of the most pressing issues facing development in the Global South; and is also centrally concerned with the impacts of environmental change, conflict and security on human life.

The MSc dovetails - but it also separate from - existing MA/MRes and MSc programmes in Politics and International Relations; particularly MA/MRes pathways in International Relations and Global Security, and the MSc International Diplomacy. It shares core research training and some optional modules with these programmes, thereby making the programme resilient; but also offers modules focused on international development.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- Undertake an intensive period of study specializing in international development in a systematic and disciplined manner
- Undertake study and research in international development to prepare students for employment in this field, as appropriate
- Gain in-depth grounding in core theoretical and practical aspects of international development
- Conduct an independent research project in the field of international development
- Critically engage with methods, sources, and data, many of which are at the cutting edge of the discipline, to analyse aspects of international development
- Analyse, discuss and evaluate pressing issues of international development, for instance state-building, security, post-conflict reconstruction, environmental challenges and change
- Develop time management, independent working, written and oral communication skills, and enhance group work skills, as well as developing skills to learn co-operatively and actively in tutorials and lectures, and to learn independently
- Gain modern foreign language skills, or develop skills in English for academic purposes, as appropriate

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Critically evaluate key themes and challenges in international development
- Draw on theories and research methods to develop independent analyses of problems in international development
- Critically engage with the politics of international development, broadly defined
- Develop practical solutions to challenges of international development, and critically appraise their advantages and limitations

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply key research methods and strategies to develop interests in International Development and undertake independent research work
- Critically evaluate core analytical frameworks and apply them to real-world problems of international development
- Apply the knowledge and analytical study skills, for example the gathering, assessment and analysis of evidence, or the application of theories, necessary to pursue further academic research, or to pursue careers related to the subject area

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced level written and oral communication skills, and individual organizational capabilities
- If appropriate, advance their English language or foreign language skills
- Demonstrate advanced level understanding of concepts and challenges in international development, necessary to pursue careers related to the subject area
- Critically evaluate methods and approaches to making practical advances in international development

The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical awareness**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme include:

- In-depth lectures sharing tutors' subject and research expertise with students; and, where appropriate, encouraging students to discuss this
- Tutorial discussions in which students share, discuss, and evaluate ideas, in debates structured or facilitated by tutors
- Individual and group presentations in which students present ideas and arguments
- Guided reading lists to support students' independent learning
- Independent dissertation, guided by a supervisor, and supported by the research training modules and by additional dissertation preparation workshops, to study in-depth a research topic, question of questions and to apply relevant methodologies to examine that topic, question or questions

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Advanced level training in research methods in the discipline through opportunities to apply research methods to practical problems of the students' devising and through provision of knowledge about different approaches to research methods in the relevant discipline
- Delivery of advanced-level information through lectures and guided reading lists about key challenges, contestations, and debates in the field of international development broadly defined, about critical approaches to those challenges, and about real-world examples of those issues and of how international development is experienced in different local contexts
- Opportunity for structured discussion in tutorials to facilitate deep learning about the subject matter and to share ideas
- Variety of assessment methods to provide opportunities for all learners and to offer opportunities to gain transferable skills
- In-depth dissertation to develop critical analytical skills, alongside evidence gathering, evaluation, and independent research skills, and opportunity for extended study of a particular area in international development

6. Teaching Staff

All current staff in International Relations, Politics, and Geography who will contribute to the MSc either as module convenors or contributors, or dissertation supervisors, have relevant expertise in their fields; and all have extensive experience teaching Masters and undergraduate students, and in Masters and PhD supervision, in these areas in the UK and often internationally. All the current teaching staff contributing to the Masters have completed training as part of their induction to university teaching. 80% of them are members of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

The University will attempt to minimize changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

Credits

The programme requires 180 credits. This is made up of 120 credits from taught modules, and 60 credits from the dissertation. It is structured as follows:

- 3 compulsory modules (each of 15 credits), totalling 45 credits
- 5 optional modules (each of 15 credits), totalling 75 credits
- A 15,000 word dissertation on an International Development topic (60 credits)

Full-time and part time registration

The programme is offered either as a full-time degree, or a part-time degree. Students who are registered on a part-time basis should take 60 credits from taught modules in their first year, and 60 credits from taught modules in their second year. (Any variation in this balance must be authorized by the Programme Director.) Part-time students undertake their 60-credit dissertation in the second year of study, and submit this at the same time as the cohort of full-time students in that second year.

Entry points

There will normally be two entry points: September and January. September-start students will take the semesters in this order: Autumn, Spring, and Summer. January-start students will take the semesters in this order: Spring, Summer, and Autumn.

For **full-time** students, starting in **September**, the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits)	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)	
		PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits) ----->	
Optional modules	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	3 modules from the list below (3 x 15 credits)	

For **part-time** students starting in **September**, the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
YEAR 1			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits)	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)	
Optional modules	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	
YEAR 2			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits)		
	PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits) ----->		
Optional modules	1 module from the list below (15 credits)	2 modules from the list below (2x 15 credits)	

For **full-time** students, starting in **January 2024**, the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester	
Compulsory modules			PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits)	
	PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits) ----->			
Optional modules	4 modules from the list below (4 x 15 credits)		1 module from the list below (15 credits)	

For **full-time** students, starting in **January 2025** and thereafter, the structure of the MSc programme is as follows:

	Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester	
Compulsory modules	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits)		PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits)	
	PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits) ----->			
Optional modules	3 modules from the list below (3 x 15 credits)		2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)	

For **part-time** students starting in **January 2024** and thereafter, and thereafter, the structure of the programme is as follows:

	Spring Semester	Summer	Autumn Semester
YEAR 1			
Compulsory modules			PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits)
Optional modules	2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)		
YEAR 2			
Compulsory modules	PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) PIR-40105 - Dissertation (60 credits) ----->		
Optional modules	1 module from the list below (15 credits)		2 modules from the list below (2 x 15 credits)

Compulsory modules

PIR-40095: Research in Action (15 credits) - Autumn Semester. This module offers an advanced introduction to research design and evidence gathering in Politics and International Relations (including international development), and an opportunity for students to design and conduct their own small-scale practical research project based on a topic of their own choosing. This module is key to the development of the students' research skills.

PIR-40144: Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations (15 credits) - Autumn Semester for full-time students starting their studies in January 2024; Spring Semester for all other students. This module provides students with a foundation in the mainstream philosophies and approaches to studying International Relations and international development. It examines how scholars have approached the issues of what to study and how to study, and the ways in which these issues are bound up with historical and current power structures within the world.

PIR-40152: International Development: Environment and Conflict (15 credits) - Autumn Semester. This module provides an advanced level study of core theories and approaches to international development, equipping students with the tools to analyse and debate the question of international development, focusing particularly on the relationships between international development, environmental change and conflict.

PIR-40105: Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations (60 credits). Students write a dissertation of 15,000 words on a topic of their choice within the field of international development. They are supported by their supervisor who has expertise in their field, and they take part in a number of dedicated dissertation workshops.

Optional modules

Autumn Semester
<i>PIR-40088: The Theory of Global Security</i> (15 credits). This module explores the main theoretical traditions through which security has been understood and examines contemporary problems of security and development.
<i>PIR-40093: The Changing International Agenda</i> (15 credits). This module offers an in-depth critical assessment of the development, change and nature of the international system.
<i>PIR-40106: Dimensions of Environmental Politics</i> (15 credits). This module provides students with an advanced overview of key concepts, debates, processes and discourses that concern the political and international dynamics of the environment.
<i>PIR-40130: The US Presidency and Public Policy</i> (15 credits). Using a swathe of contemporary research, this module examines the power of the US presidency, and in particular its capacity to change public policy.

PIR-40136: International Diplomacy (15 credits). This module offers an advanced level introduction to the discipline of International Diplomacy, what it is, and how it has evolved. It provides an innovative exploration of the theories and practices underpinning International Diplomacy, and considers the varied settings in which diplomacy takes place.

GEG-40020: Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability (15 credits). This module explores key debates in human geography and sustainability, including focus on the relevance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in contemporary world politics.

GEG-40034: Development and Climate Justice (15 credits). This module explores issues of justice brought about by climate change, with a particular focus on the Global South.

Spring Semester

PIR-40096: Comparative European Politics (15 credits). Informed by classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical approaches to comparative politics, this module considers the nature and role of fundamental political structures in Europe (including electoral systems, political parties, executives and legislatures), and explores the ways in which these structures, and the actors within them, interact.

PIR-40119: Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the US (15 credits). Despite the successes of the 1960s civil rights movement, discrimination is still a top issue in the US. This module examines how discrimination, inequality and civil rights have been navigated and negotiated in the US from the second half of the twentieth century.

PIR-40138: Crises, Conflict, and Diplomacy (15 credits). This module explores the management of crisis in world politics, looking at real-world examples of how states use diplomacy to avoid conflict, and why and how they succeed or fail.

PIR-40142: The Geopolitics of Nationalism and Populism (15 credits). This module offers an exploration of the relationships between nationalism/populism and security from a geopolitical perspective. It focuses on theoretical approaches and case studies relating to various historical and contemporary issues such as war and peace, self-determination, national-populism, and foreign policy.

PIR-40146: Post-conflict Development: Cases and Approaches (15 credits). This module offers an in-depth exploration of how states can rebuild after conflict, focusing on real-world examples of development.

PIR-40162: Politics and Security Dynamics in the Middle East (15 credits). This module explores the seminal importance of the Middle East to stability and instability in global politics, and to the politics of the region. It considers regional, sub-regional, and transnational factors and processes that influence political transformations and security concerns in this area, and how they connect with local, national, and global players and developments.

GRT-40020: Quantitative Research and Data Analysis (15 credits). This module delivers an introduction to the practices of quantitative social research, while also examining core principles.

GRT-40021: Qualitative Research Methods (15 credits). This module provides an introduction to qualitative social research by examining the kinds of work qualitative social researchers engage in, the questions they ask, the tools they use, and the impacts and benefits of qualitative research.

Across the whole programme

Students can also choose to take one modern foreign language module over the course of their programme, including British Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish. Modules are offered at various levels, ranging from absolute beginners, to intermediate, and to advanced level. The Language Unit will undertake an assessment of students' proficiency, based on their existing language qualifications and skills, and place them in the appropriate module. Only one foreign language module (15 credits) can be taken as part of the MSc programme.

International students whose first language is not English can also choose to take a module in Postgraduate English as an Academic Practice. The Language Unit will undertake a diagnostic language assessment to determine which module (ENL-40001, or ENL-40004, or ENL-40002) would be most suitable for the student. Only one Postgraduate English as an Academic Practice module (15 credits) can be taken as part of the MSc programme.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	105	75	75

Module Lists

Level 7

Note that in the module list below, Semester 1 refers to the autumn semester, and Semester 2 refers to the spring semester. Students who start in January will take modules labelled 'Semester 2' before they take modules labelled 'Semester 1'.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Research in Action	PIR-40095	15	Semester 1
International Development: Environment and Conflict	PIR-40152	15	Semester 1
Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations	PIR-40144	15	Semester 2
Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-40105	60	Semester 2-3

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1	ENL-40001	15	Semester 1
Key Themes in Human Geography and Sustainability	GEG-40020	15	Semester 1
Development and Climate Justice (Masters)	GEG-40034	15	Semester 1
The Theory of Global Security	PIR-40088	15	Semester 1
The Changing International Agenda	PIR-40093	15	Semester 1
Dimensions of Environmental Politics	PIR-40106	15	Semester 1
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 2	ENL-40002	15	Semester 1-2
Academic English for Postgraduate Students 1-B	ENL-40004	15	Semester 2
Quantitative Research and Data Analysis	GRT-40020	15	Semester 2
Qualitative Research Methods	GRT-40021	15	Semester 2
Comparative European Politics	PIR-40096	15	Semester 2
Race and Justice: Civil Rights in the U.S.	PIR-40119	15	Semester 2
Crises, Conflict and Diplomacy	PIR-40138	15	Semester 2
The geopolitics of nationalism and populism	PIR-40142	15	Semester 2
Post-conflict Development: Cases and Approaches	PIR-40146	15	Semester 2
Politics and security dynamics in the Middle East	PIR-40162	15	Semester 2

Level 7 Module Rules

- Students may take one modern foreign language module (from a choice of: British Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish), at the selected, appropriate level. Only one such module (15 credits) may be taken over the whole degree.
- Students may only take one Academic English for Postgraduate Students (ENL) credit-bearing module (15 credits) over their whole degree.

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of and critically evaluate advanced scholarship and recent research in themes, issues, theories, and debates pertaining to the study of international development within the disciplines of international relations, critical security studies and/or law, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of academic discipline	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of and critically evaluate the techniques and methodologies applicable to research and advanced scholarship in the discipline of international development, as a field of international relations, critical security studies and/or geography	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, and practical understanding of how established techniques of research are used to create and to interpret knowledge in the discipline	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, different ways of conducting, and assumptions underpinning, advanced research in the discipline of international relations, as it pertains to the study of international development	Research in Action - PIR-40095 Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and creatively, independently and systematically apply, relevant research methods to a topic, question or questions in the field of international development	Research in Action - PIR-40095 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship pertaining to the practices of power in the modern world and the varied relationships between environment, security, international relations and international development	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate systematic knowledge of, and critically evaluate, recent scholarship concerning the international and (where relevant) local settings in which international development occurs, and the global conflicts, problems and challenges that shape to development	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Advanced level knowledge and understanding of modern foreign language, at appropriate level, or English skills for academic practice at postgraduate level	Foreign languages modules, or English as an Academic Practice modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Systematically and creatively assess the relationships between methods of and approaches to knowledge generation and interpretations of that knowledge in pathway specific themes, issues, theories and debates	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Systematically apply research or methodological skills and knowledge in order further to advance knowledge of a chosen research area within the discipline	Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105
Demonstrate systematic understanding of, and awareness of how to apply, specific research methodologies, techniques and skills	Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations - PIR-40144 Masters Dissertation in Politics and International Relations - PIR-40105 Research in Action - PIR-40095
Demonstrate systematic understanding of how to apply research methods to tackle problems and questions in the academic discipline of international development	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application and interpretation of knowledge	All modules
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, using research techniques to plan and implement tasks at an advanced level	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate self-direction and originality in employing strategies to address problems, issues, theories of debates in the academic discipline of international development, as a field of international relations	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Systematically evaluate complex issues and critically evaluate evidence and data to reach sound judgements, in the absence of complete data, about a chosen research topic or discipline specific area	All modules (except foreign languages and academic English)
Communicate appropriately through the use of higher-level writing skills, aimed at specialist and non-specialist audiences, with appropriate use of academic referencing	All modules
Communicate appropriately, convincingly and fluently, in oral presentation	All modules, where appropriate
Demonstrate systematic improvement in skills in a modern foreign language; or improvement in skills for using English for academic practices, where appropriate	Foreign languages modules, or English as an Academic Practice modules

8. Final and intermediate awards

MSc in International Development

To be awarded an MSc in International Development students must accumulate 120 credits of taught modules (comprised of: the three compulsory modules (Research in Action; Advanced Approaches to Politics and International Relations; and International Development: Environment and Conflict) and five optional modules (all of 15 credits each); and complete the 15,000-word dissertation (60 credits). At least 150 of these credits must be at Level 7.

Postgraduate Diploma in International Development

A student can be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma if they successfully accumulate 120 credits. This is achieved by gaining credits from taught modules. Dissertation credits are excluded from the award of a Postgraduate Diploma. At least 90 of these credits must be at Level 7.

Postgraduate Certificate in International Development

A student can be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate if they successfully accumulate 60 credits. This is achieved by gaining credits from any combination of taught modules - be they compulsory or optional modules. Dissertation credits are excluded from the award of a Postgraduate Certificate. At least 40 of these credits must be at Level 7.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

This programme makes use of a wide variety of assessment methods. This reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that students develop as they progress through their degree programme. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on the programme.

- Essays
- Analysis of an analytical or methodological approach
- Commentaries on a foundational text
- Reflective research reports
- Policy-based case studies
- Case studies of judicial judgements
- Case studies or historical or contemporary events of issues
- Briefing reports
- Individual or group oral presentations
- Individual oral exams
- Research proposal
- Dissertation

In module documents (including on the KLE) and in class time, teaching staff pay particular attention to explaining the assessments used on each module, and to specifying clear assessment criteria. In addition, students may contact or meet with individual staff to discuss questions or areas of concern.

Assignments assess the students' understanding of the module content, as well as their analytical abilities, including their capacity to evaluate particular debates, material and/or evidence. Written assessments enable an assessment of the students' written communication skills, while oral presentations and oral exams allow for an assessment of their spoken communication skills. Reflective research reports and the dissertation facilitate assessment of the students' ability to select, apply and evaluate appropriate research designs and methods to any chosen topic of study.

Feedback is given on all assessments in a timely manner - within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible. Feedback is constructive and includes guidance on how students can improve the quality of their work.

Students are supported in the preparation of their dissertation in a number of ways. In the spring they will be assigned a supervisor with expertise on their chosen topic, and they will meet with their supervisor regularly between then and submission. Students will also attend a series of workshops (held in the spring) on dissertation research (as part of the dissertation module PIR-40105). After these, they will write and submit a research proposal for their dissertation. This is a formative assessment, for which they will receive written feedback and an indicative mark from their dissertation supervisor. (For part-time students, this happens in Year 2.)

The dissertation is assessed on the basis of the student's demonstration of: their ability to select an appropriate research topic and research question; their wide and critical understanding of the scholarship in their field; their critical application of an appropriate research design and methodology; their application of a relevant research method as appropriate; and their critical evaluation of evidence, to go on to reach sound independent judgements based on their evaluations.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. NB: students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Each student on the programme is allocated a member of the programme team as an Academic Mentor. Regular meetings are arranged for the student to meet with their Mentor, normally face to face, to review overall progress and to discuss any academic issues of concern. Extra meetings can be scheduled at the request of the student or the Mentor, as needed.

Students may also contact or meet with their module tutors to discuss the intellectual content of the module, and/or to ask questions or seek advice on assessments.

Students receive written feedback from their module tutors on their assessed work. They may also contact or meet with these tutors should they like to discuss this feedback in more detail, and/or meet with their Academic Mentor to do so.

The programme also organizes its own Staff-Student Voice Committee, in which staff and student representatives can discuss any issues of concern.

The University's Language Centre offers a range of services to students whose first language is not English, including language classes (both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing), and one-to-one tutorials that offer individual language support with assignments.

The Academic and Digital Skills team also offers a range of services to help students develop their academic skills. This includes a wealth of online resources and workshops on topics including using academic sources, developing critical thinking and analysis skills, preparing for oral presentations, and preparing for written assessments. In addition, the team offers one-to-one appointments with individual students to discuss their specific needs.

The School of Social, Political and Global Studies (SPGS) also runs a series of workshops aimed specifically at supporting PGT students. These include a workshop on good academic practice (with guidance on quoting, paraphrasing, and referencing), on services to support students, and on the development of career and future plans.

SPGS also facilitates sessions with our subject librarian to enhance student skills in identifying and accessing relevant reading resources, source material and data.

Students also have the opportunity to use the resources of Keele Careers to find out more about the kinds of career opportunities open to them, to receive guidance on how to apply for specific jobs, and to receive advice on how to prepare for job applications or interviews. Keele Careers runs workshops on a range of topics, and also provides one-to-one sessions for individually focussed support.

14. Learning Resources

The main body of the programme is delivered through self-study materials, which comprise mainly traditional text-based resources (especially academic books and journal articles) available in the library, either in hard copy or electronically (through e-books and e-journals).

In addition, a range of electronic learning resources are available for students to access through each module's KLE page. This includes digitized readings, links to useful websites (such as those of international organizations, government bodies, or useful datasets), links to relevant news articles, and other material.

All module KLE pages also include study skills resources, to further enhance the support that students may draw on. These resources include a comprehensive guide to referencing, as well as an online tutorial called StudyWrite, which provides guidance on a variety of topics such as note-taking, referencing, and avoiding plagiarism.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Each academic year, SPGS organises a series of research seminars at which researchers (both from within the School, and from other universities) present their work. Students are encouraged to attend in order to learn about cutting-edge research being conducted in a range of areas in Politics and International Relations (including International Development), as well as in cognate disciplines.

Students also have the opportunity to attend public talks offered by the School and the University. These include SPGS's Spotlight in International Relations series where notable alumni come back to Keele to talk about what they have gone on to do, as well as the renowned Keele World Affairs lectures, and the Keele Institute of Liberal Arts Grand Challenges lectures, both of which attract big-name speakers.

16. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

The MSc in International Development is designed to complement the University's Learning and Teaching assessment strategies, extending the University's emphasis on internationalisation, and on real-world applications of theoretical problems, in the postgraduate curriculum.

The programme's structure reflects the University's commitment to providing flexible learning environments for both recent graduates seeking to develop their subject specific and their transferable skills, to students with professional experience, and to students from a variety of backgrounds, international or domestic, with the aptitude or intention to enter professional service.

It aims to develop varied skills and capacities in a dynamic learning environment, using multi-media resources and drawing on significant research and teaching expertise, in a manner that complies with the Quality Assurance Agency's standards for Higher Education programmes, such as its Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Specifically, the programme contains assessments that engage learners in different ways (presentations, different forms of written work for different purposes) and that enable students to preserve legacies of their work when progressing to the workplace. Employability is integrated into the programme through the tackling of specific real-world problems relevant to international development throughout the curriculum, and the assessing of students' engagement with those problems, and ways to meet them, in assessment. It is further enhanced by visiting speaker events. Global perspectives are at the heart of the programme. The programme explores global inequality and barriers to the peace and prosperity of the planet, and human life on it, which is inclusive by design.

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 11 June 2024

What's Changed

PIR-40130 & PIR-40136 removed.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
2	2023/24	LIZ CARTER		
1.1	2023/24	LIZ CARTER	17 July 2023	July 2023 - New module added: PIR-40162
1	2023/24	HELEN PARR	18 April 2023	